

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-389

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
Office of Deputy Director for
Collection and Taskings

FROM: [REDACTED]
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Need-to-know

STAT

STAT

1. You recently requested a definition of need-to-know which could be provided as assistance to those entrusted with the requirement to identify individuals or elements with a bona fide condition that can be satisfied through access to SCI material or to facilitate the adjudication process of those charged with advising on the adequacy of the claim for SCI material.

2. President Eisenhower tasked the DCI in 1960 to do the same thing. Efforts were undoubtedly made to comply with that task, but nothing has come down to us from any such early endeavor. I think that circumstance alone speaks volumes.

3. Among the problems of predecessors are:

- Attempts to provide a succinct turn of phrase that would serve as panacea, trying to rival the powers of Marlowe as it were, e.g. everyone working in intelligence has a need-to-know.
- Defining an easily circumscribed element by functional responsibility and roofing it and all inhabitants within with a statement that incorporates need-to-know, a 1a NPIC for TK access or NSA for SI.

78/68

- Grading need-to-know and failing to acknowledge validity of different gradings, i.e.



STAT

SUBJECT; Need-to-know

Distribution;

Original - Addressee

1 - SECOM/subject

1 - SECOM/chrono

SECOM [redacted] 6 October 1978

STAT